



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jacob Coin
Office of Public Affairs
(909) 864-8933
jcoin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

SAN MANUEL TO MAKE LARGEST SINGLE CUMULATIVE GIFT OF OVER \$7 MILLION DURING RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Forging Hope Community Luncheon to Recognize 25 Recipient Non-Profits and Institutions

San Bernardino, Calif. –January 6, 2009- The San Manuel Forging Hope Community Luncheon will bring together leaders from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians with non-profit and community organizations to recognize the outstanding services each provides to the community.

Through the event San Manuel will have contributed \$7,295,000 to 25 non-profit organizations and community groups. The event will be held in the Renaissance Room at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino, Calif. beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The event is a first of its kind for the Tribe and was motivated by its wish to highlight the important role of non-profit and community organizations in providing services during the current economic downturn.

“Now more than ever we know there are greater demands on non-profits to provide services,” said James Ramos, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians“. Despite the current economic downturn we hope our support will motivate others to get involved as well.”

Through the course of the event, a brief background will be provided on each group and how they are rising to meet the needs of their constituents amidst an environment of declining contributions and increased requests for assistance.

The tribe has chosen to partner with groups and organizations that positively impact the greater community, including groups that specialize in health care, education, social services, Native American education and those that work with neighborhoods to enhance the quality of life. The diversity of organizations chosen is part of a comprehensive charitable giving strategy guided by the values and beliefs of the Tribe and its priorities as a sovereign government.

Awardees and Awards

1. Operation SafeHouse – \$10,000 (San Bernardino, Calif.)
2. Highland Senior Center – \$10,000 (Highland, Calif.)
3. Southern California Indian Center – \$10,000 (Los Angeles, Calif.)
4. National Indian Child Welfare Association – \$10,000 (Portland, Ore.)
5. Trinity Children’s Foundation – \$10,000 (Colton, Calif.)
6. Olive Crest – \$15,000 (Riverside, CA)
7. Boys & Girls Club of Victor Valley – \$20,000 (Victor Valley, Calif.)
8. YMCA of the East Valley – \$20,000 (Redlands, Calif.)
9. Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce Military Action Committee / March ARB – \$25,000 (Riverside, Calif)

-more

Tribe Donates 7 Million to Non-Profits

Page Two

10. Operation Phoenix Foundation – \$25,000 (San Bernardino, Calif)
11. Redlands Council PTA – \$40,000 (Redlands, Calif.)
12. Mary’s Mercy Center – \$50,000 (San Bernardino, Calif.)
13. Sherman Indian High School – \$50,000 (Riverside, Calif.)
14. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – \$100,000 (San Bernardino, Calif.)
15. Second Harvest Food Bank of San Bernardino & Riverside County – \$100,000
16. American Red Cross Black Hills Chapter – \$100,000 (South Dakota)
17. Children’s Fund – \$100,000 (San Bernardino, Calif.)
18. Time for Change Foundation – \$100,000 (San Bernardino, Calif)
19. Crafton Hills College Foundation – 150K (Yucaipa Calif.)
20. San Bernardino Valley College Foundation – 150,000(San Bernardino, Calif.)
21. Aquinas High School – \$200,000 (San Bernardino, Calif.)
22. American Red Cross Inland Empire Chapter – \$500,000 (San Bernardino, Calif.)
23. St. Bernadine’s Medical Center Foundation – \$1,000,000 (San Bernardino, Calif.)
24. Northern Arizona University – \$2,000,000 (Flagstaff, Ariz.)
25. Northwest Indian College – \$2,500,000 (Bellingham, Wash.)

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

###